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(54) **PRIORITIZED DISPLAY OF CELL BROADCAST MESSAGES**

(75) Inventors: **Ming Zhang**, Bellevue, WA (US); **Jun Shen**, Redmond, WA (US)

(73) Assignee: **AT&T Mobility II LLC**, Atlanta, GA (US)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **370/329**; 455/166.2

(58) **Field of Classification Search** None
See application file for complete search history.

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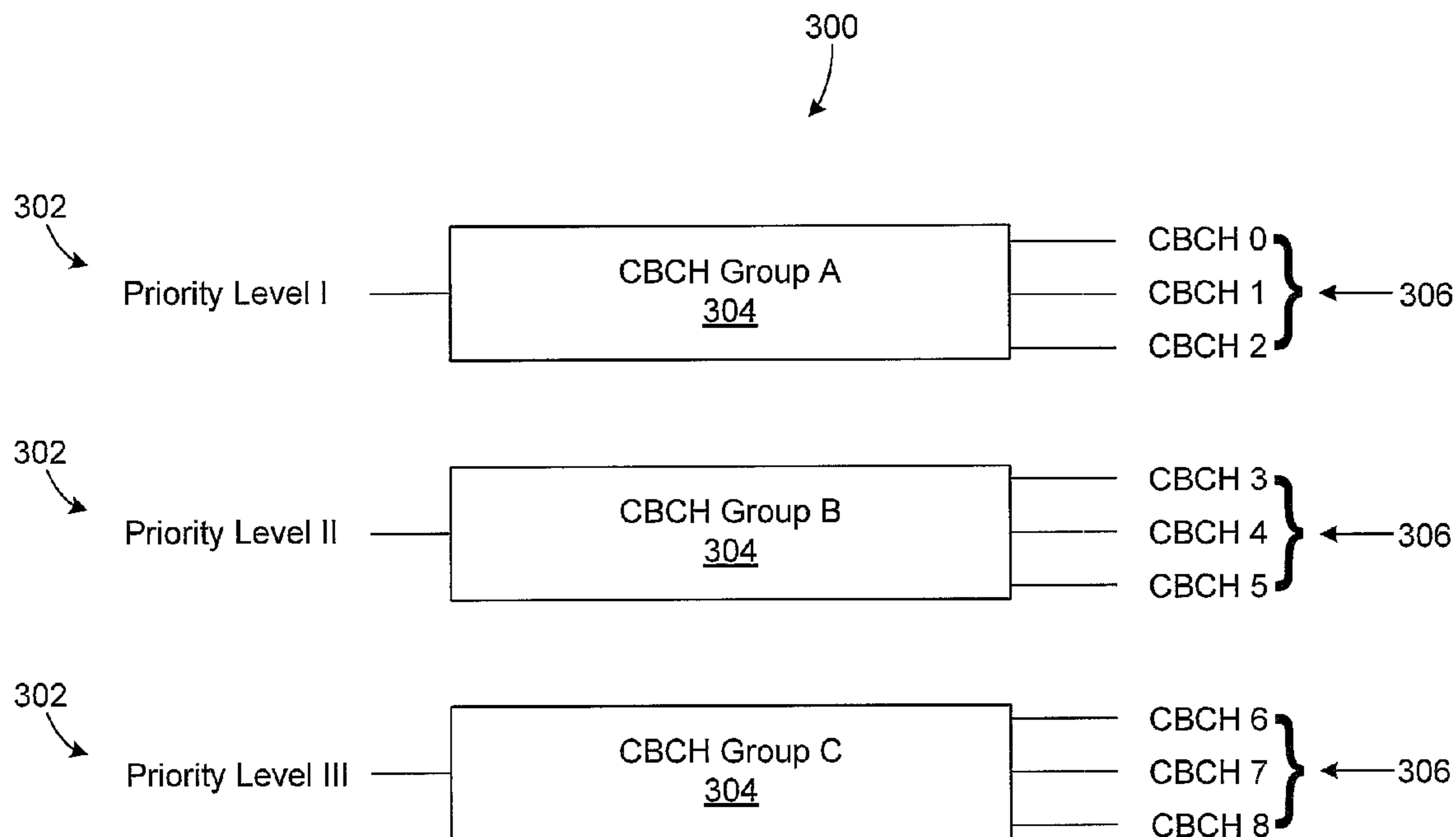
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Primary Examiner—Chirag G Shah
Assistant Examiner—Minh-Trang Nguyen
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Parks IP Law LLC; Jonathan A. Paulis

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Taught herein are devices, systems, and methods for creating, procuring, and maintaining a priority scheme for cell broadcast messages. In an exemplary embodiment, the priority scheme includes a plurality of cell broadcast channels (CBCH) that are assigned logic groups, which in turn are assigned a priority level. Accordingly, cell broadcast (CB) messages with higher priority levels are displayed first on the receiving device.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



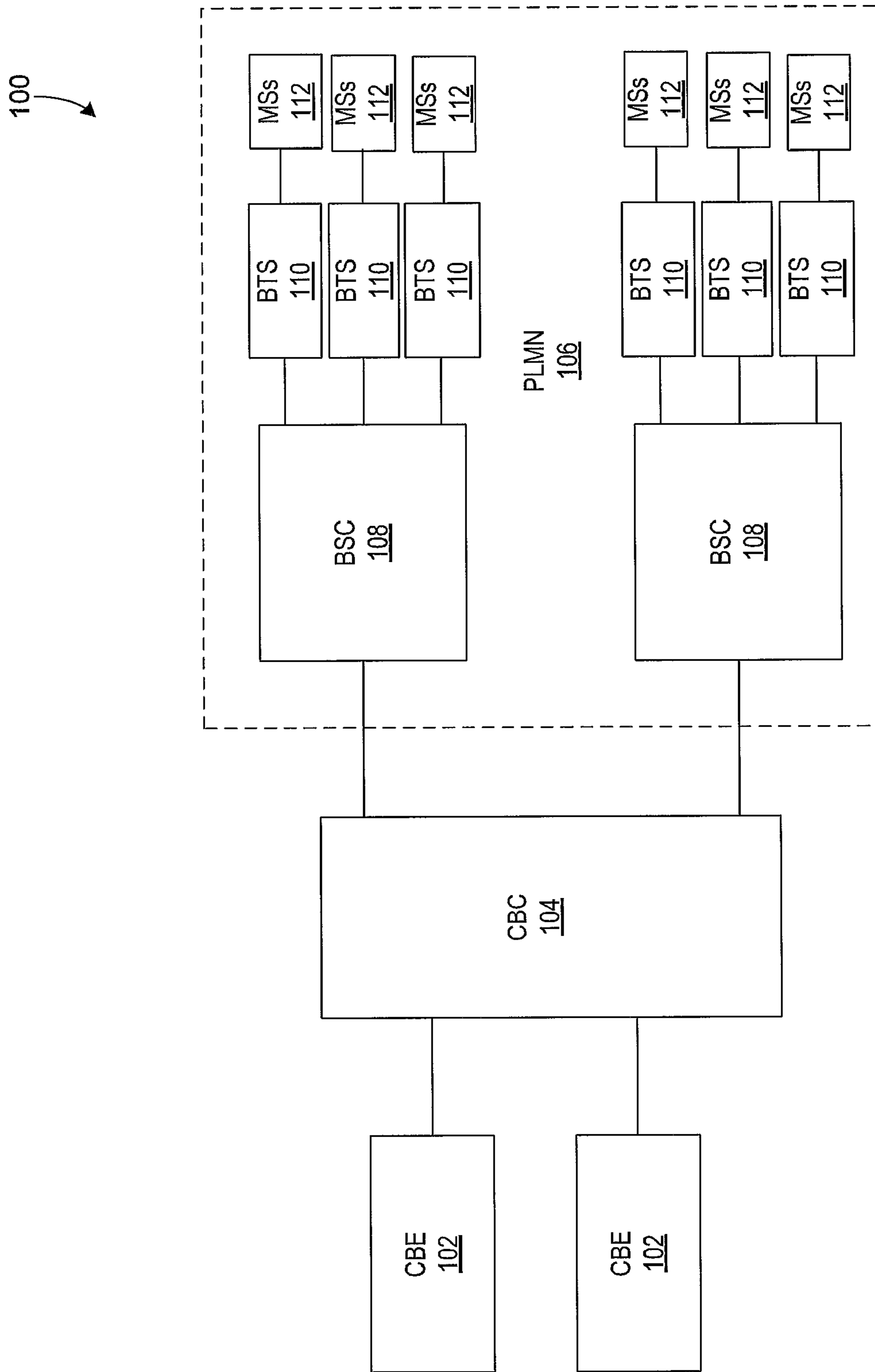


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

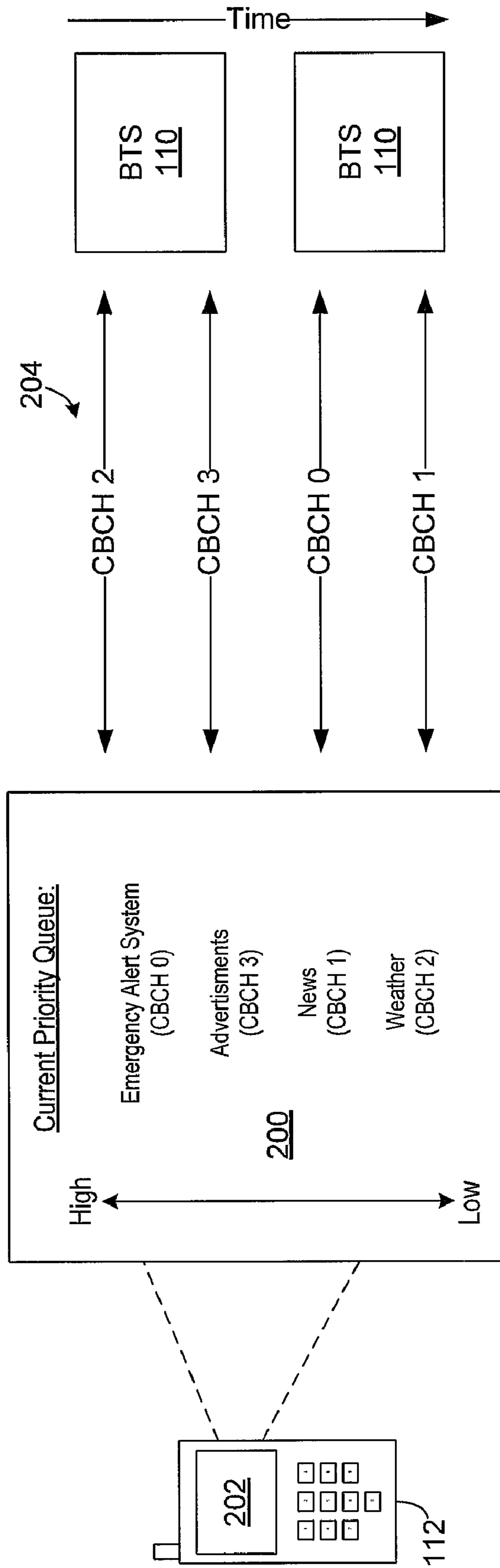


FIG. 2

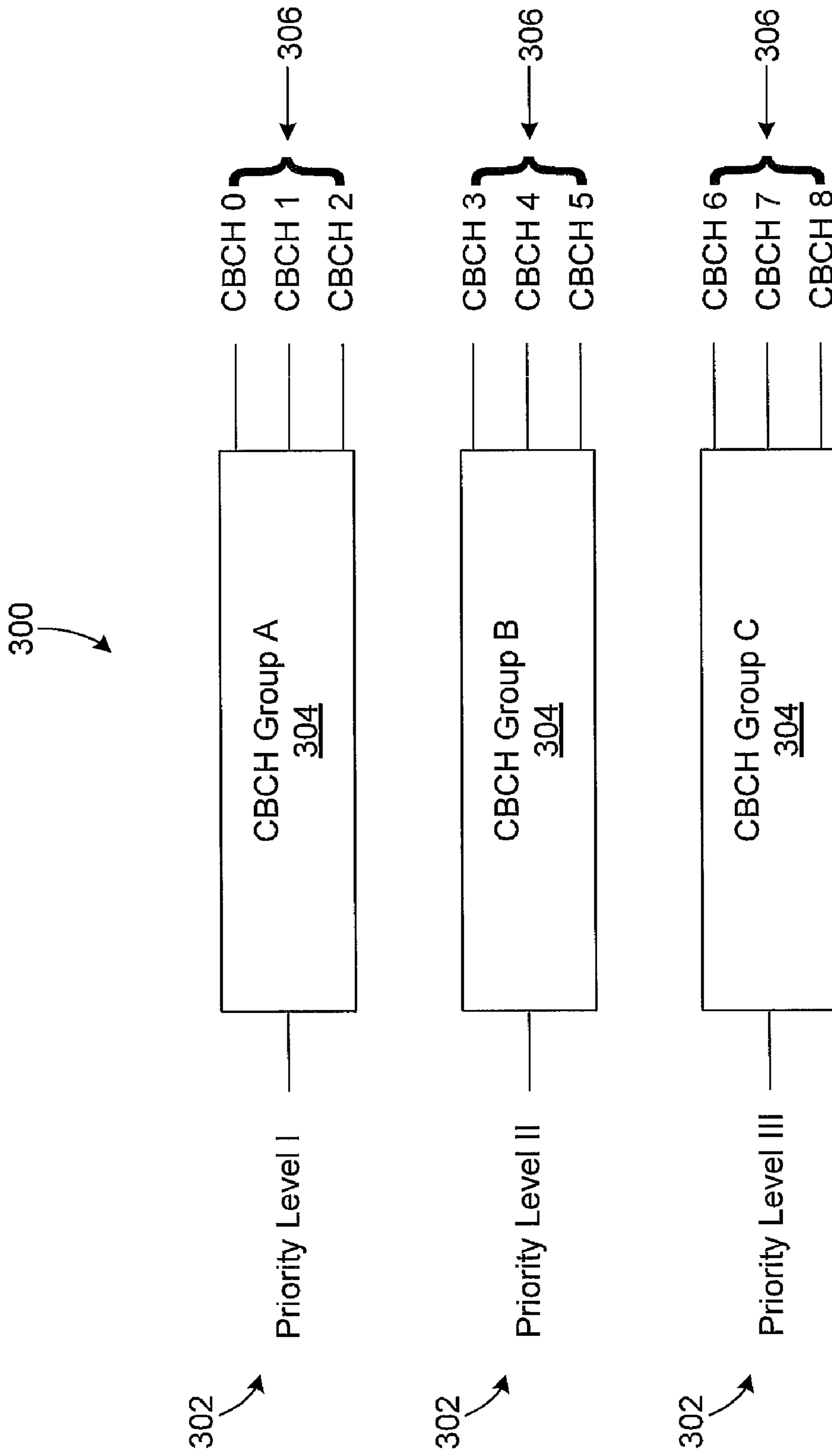


FIG. 3

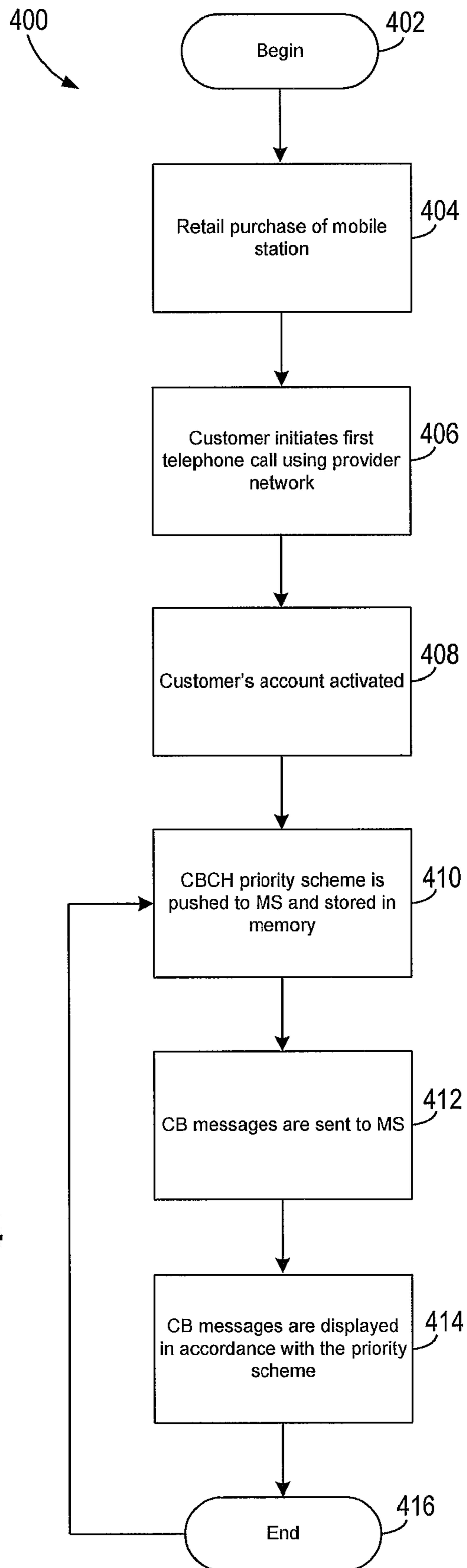


FIG. 4

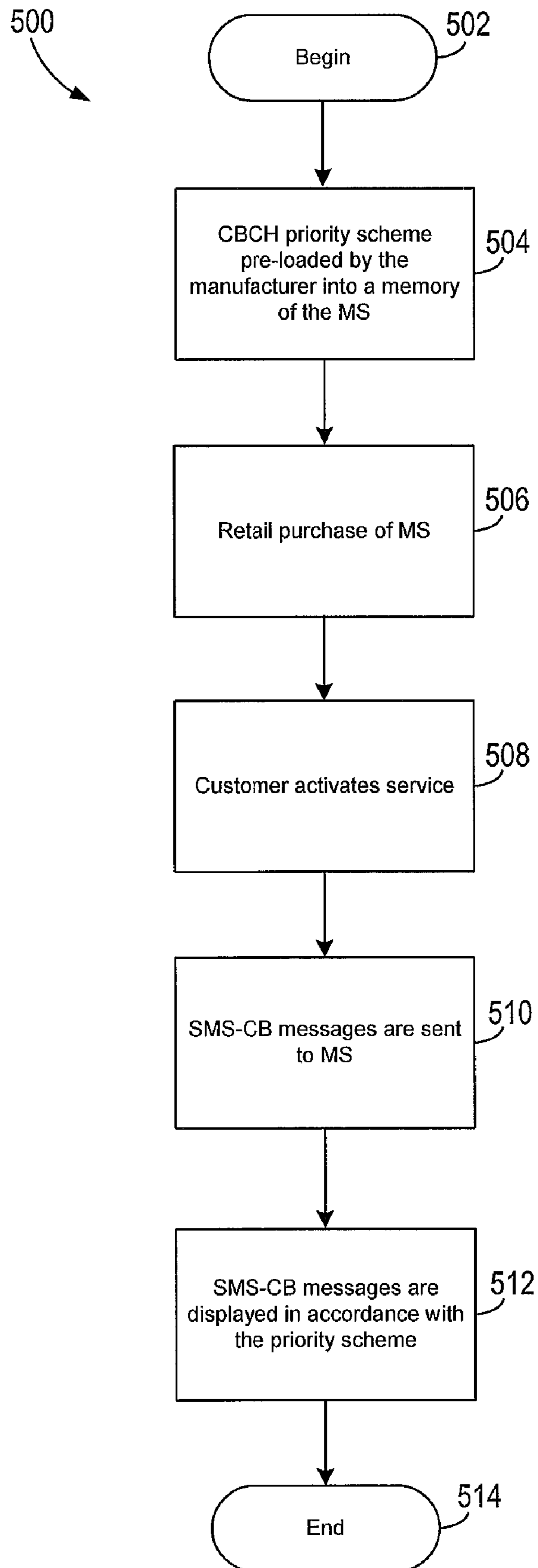


FIG. 5

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PRIORITIZED DISPLAY OF CELL BROADCAST MESSAGES

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to cell broadcast messaging and, more particularly, to prioritized display of cell broadcast messages on a mobile device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cell broadcast is a messaging service that allows for the simultaneous delivery of messages to a group of users in a specified area. Emergency Alert Service (EAS) messages, advertisements, weather forecasts, breaking news, and sports updates can be sent to a mobile device via cell broadcast channels (CBCH). It is common for multiple cell broadcast (CB) messages of varying types to be sent to the mobile device. These CB messages are displayed on a first come, first serve basis. This display method may delay an important or urgent message from being processed and predominately displayed.

Thus, it is desirable to have devices, systems, and methods to display messages in accordance with a priority scheme such that higher priority messages are predominately displayed immediately upon receipt at the mobile device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Devices, systems, and methods are provided herein that overcome the limitations of the prior art. More specifically, a mobile communications device provided herein includes a transceiver, a display, a processor, and a memory. The memory includes a priority scheme that includes a priority level for a number of cell broadcast channels (CBCH). The priority scheme is configured to make the processor operable to present a number of CB messages received from the CBCHs on the device display, based upon the priority level. In one embodiment, the priority scheme includes at least one logic group that is assigned a priority level.

A computer readable memory that includes instructions for making a processor operable to assign a priority level to a number of CBCHs according to a priority scheme and to present a number of CB messages received via the CBCHs on a display based upon the priority level, is also provided. In one embodiment, the priority scheme includes at least one logic group that is assigned a priority level. The priority scheme can be static or dynamic.

An over-the-air (OTA) activation system is also provided. The OTA activation system includes a wireless communications network, the wireless communications network being configured to provide OTA activation service for at least one mobile communications device that is in communication with the wireless communications network. The wireless communications network is further configured to send a priority scheme to the mobile communications device. The priority scheme includes a priority level for a plurality of CBCHs.

A method for procuring a priority scheme includes the steps of activating a wireless telecommunications service, loading a priority scheme into a mobile communications device, receiving at least two cell broadcast (CB) messages at a mobile communications device, and displaying the CB messages in an order prescribed by the priority scheme. The priority scheme is configured to prioritize a number of CB messages received from a number of CBCHs.

In some embodiments, the priority scheme is received during the step of activating. In other embodiments, the method

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is received before the step of activating. In still other embodiments, the method is received after the step of activating.

The priority scheme can be pre-loaded on the device by one of a manufacture, a vendor, and a wireless service provider, or programmed into a subscriber identity module (SIM). In some embodiments, the priority scheme can be dynamically updated (e.g., via OTA).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a prior art cell broadcast system.

FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary priority screen, according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary priority scheme, according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary method for procuring a priority scheme via Over-the-Air (OTA) activation, according to the present invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary method for procuring a priority scheme via manufacture pre-load, according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As required, detailed embodiments of the present invention are disclosed herein. It must be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the invention that may be embodied in various and alternative forms, and combinations thereof. As used herein, the word "exemplary" is used expansively to refer to embodiments that serve as an illustration, specimen, model or pattern. The figures are not necessarily to scale and some features may be exaggerated or minimized to show details of particular components. In other instances, well-known components, systems, materials or methods have not been described in detail in order to avoid obscuring the present invention. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present invention.

Referring now to the drawings in which like numerals represent like elements throughout the several views, FIG. 1 depicts a prior art cell broadcast system **100**. The illustrated cell broadcast system **100** includes a number of cell broadcast entities (CBE) **102** that are in communication with a cell broadcast center (CBC) **104**. The CBEs **102** are configured to identify the broadcast area for a CB message, provide content for the message, and otherwise format the message as is known to those skilled in the art. The CBC **104** is configured to manage the CB messages received from the various CBEs **102** and to communicate with the wireless network, for example, the illustrated Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) **106**. The CBC **104** is configured to store information corresponding to a number of Base Station Controllers (BSC) **108** and a number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) **110** as is known to those skilled in the art.

The illustrated PLMN **106** includes BSCs **108** that are in communication with a plurality of BTSs **110**, which in turn are in communication with a plurality of mobile stations (MS) **112**. The PLMN **106** may utilize any air interface known to those skilled in the art such as, but not limited to, Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA), Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), CDMA 2000, Wideband CDMA

(WCDMA), and the like. For purposes of teaching and not limitation, the exemplary embodiments described herein use GSM as the air interface.

Referring now to FIG. 2, an exemplary priority screen **200** is illustrated on display **202** of MS **112**, according to the present invention. The exemplary priority screen **200** illustrates a priority order of CBCHs **204** as prescribed by a CBCH priority scheme stored within the MS **112**. It is contemplated that the CBCH priority scheme can be stored in a memory of the MS **112**. The memory can be, for example, a read-only memory (ROM), a random access memory (RAM), or a hybrid combination thereof. In addition, the memory can be internal, external, and/or removably insertable into the MS **112**.

The CBCHs **204** are transmitted from the BTSs **110** with CBCH **2** being transmitted first, followed by CBCH **3**, CBCH **0**, and finally CBCH **1**. It is assumed that the MS **112** receives the CBCHs **204** in the same order. As is known to those skilled in the art, present cell broadcast systems are configured to display CB messages in order of receipt and regardless of message content. The priority screen **200**, however, utilizes a priority scheme to enable the display of CB messages based at least in part upon message content.

The priority screen **200** illustrates the current priority queue, wherein the CBCHs are ranked CBCH **0**, CBCH **3**, CBCH **1**, and CBCH **2** in accordance with the illustrated CBCH priority scheme. In this example, the CBCHs **204** include messages with content related to emergencies, advertisements, news, and weather. Other content types are contemplated as are other priority schemes.

In the illustrated embodiment, a message sent via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) via CBCH **0** is displayed first in the priority queue. In the known prior art implementations, this message would be displayed after weather on CBCH **2** and advertisements on CBCH **3**.

Referring now to FIG. 3, an exemplary priority scheme **300** is shown, according to the present invention. The illustrated priority scheme **300** includes a priority level **302** that is associated with a CBCH logic group **304**, which in turn is associated with a number of CBCHs **306**. In one embodiment, the CBCH groups **304** are defined by the content of the CBCHs **306** such that CBCHs **306** with like content are associated with the same logic group. Each logic group is then assigned a different priority level.

The priority scheme **300** can be static or dynamic. In an exemplary static priority scheme, priority levels are assigned to each of the subscribed CBCHs. A CB message transmitted on a priority level I CBCH can be displayed first in accordance with the priority scheme, regardless of the message content. A dynamic priority scheme, however, can be configured to update the priority levels and/or group assignments based upon a variety of factors such as, but not limited to, a message content identifier in the CB message header (e.g., a cell broadcast message identifier (CBMI)). Accordingly, the CB message header is used to determine the content of the transmitted CB message. The content type is compared to the content type currently associated with the serving CBCH. If the message content identifier provides a content type not currently in record for the serving CBCH, then the dynamic priority scheme is updated for the new content type. Subsequent messages sent via this CBCH are then considered valid message types. It is contemplated that algorithms may be employed that can determine when it is appropriate to delete a content type. This can be determined by a sampling of the X most recent CB messages transmitted on the CBCH in question. Other methods for updating the priority levels of the CBCHs are contemplated.

The priority scheme **300** can be defined by the wireless service provider and/or the wireless subscriber. In some embodiments, software can be developed to allow the wireless subscriber to create and/or customize one or more priority schemes from the subscriber's MS. In other embodiments, the service provider can generate and send the priority scheme and/or priority scheme updates to the subscriber's MS. In still other embodiments, the priority scheme is pre-loaded in a memory of the MS by one of a manufacturer, vendor, or service provider prior to or at the point of sale of the MS. In still further embodiments, the priority scheme is programmed into the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM).

It is contemplated that access settings can be implemented so as to regulate subscriber access to the priority scheme and thus prevent unwanted changes. For example, government regulations, service provider preferences, or the like may require emergency messages to be displayed first. Thus, a setting can be used to prevent a subscriber from changing the priority scheme to display other information such as news, weather, sports scores, advertisements, and the like from being displayed before a higher priority emergency message.

Referring now to FIG. 4, an exemplary method **400** for procuring a priority scheme via over-the-air (OTA) activation is shown, according to the present invention. It should be understood that the steps illustrated with regard to FIG. 4 are not limited to the order shown.

The exemplary method **400** begins at step **402**. Following the retail purchase of a mobile station at step **404**, the customer initiates a telephone call using the provider network, as shown in step **406**. The customer is then prompted to complete a number of steps to activate a new account. At step **408**, the customer's account is activated. The method then proceeds to step **410**, wherein a CBCH priority scheme is pushed to the MS **112** and stored in a memory thereof.

It is contemplated that, in some embodiments, the provider network can send priority scheme updates to the MS **112**. As previously described, the priority scheme can be configured to dynamically update based upon the CB message content type.

At step **412**, CB messages are sent to the MS **112**. The MS **112** receives and displays the CB messages on a display **202** in accordance with the priority scheme at step **414**. The method ends at step **416**. In some embodiments, the priority scheme may be updated and as such, the method would proceed back to step **410**, wherein the updated priority scheme is pushed to the MS **112** and stored in a memory.

Referring now to FIG. 5, an exemplary method **500** for procuring a priority scheme via pre-load is shown, according to the present invention. It should be understood that the steps illustrated with regard to FIG. 5 are not limited to the order shown.

The exemplary method **500** begins at step **502** and proceeds to step **504**, wherein a CBCH priority scheme is pre-loaded into a memory of the MS **112**. The priority scheme can be pre-loaded by the MS **112** manufacturer, by the MS vendor, or by the wireless service provider.

Following the retail purchase of a MS at step **506**, the customer can activate service via any method known to those skilled in the art at step **508**. Common examples include in-store account activation and OTA activation. After the customer's account is activated, the method **500** proceeds to step **510**.

At step **510**, CB messages are sent to the MS **112**. The MS **112** receives and displays the CB messages on a display **202** in accordance with the priority scheme at step **512**. The method ends at step **514**.

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In an alternative embodiment, the SIM can be programmed with one or more priority schemes.

The law does not require and it is economically prohibitive to illustrate and teach every possible embodiment of the present claims. Hence, the above-described embodiments are merely exemplary illustrations of implementations set forth for a clear understanding of the principles of the invention. Variations, modifications, and combinations may be made to the above-described embodiments without departing from the scope of the claims. All such variations, modifications, and combinations are included herein by the scope of this disclosure and the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile communications device operating in a wireless network that supports cell broadcast (CB) messaging, the mobile communications device comprising:

- a transceiver for receiving CB messages from the wireless network;
- a display for displaying the CB messages received from the wireless network;
- a memory comprising at least one priority scheme, the priority scheme comprising two or more logic groups, each of which is assigned a priority level and each of which includes a plurality of cell broadcast channels (CBCHs); and
- a processor for assigning the priority level to each of the logic groups according to the priority scheme and instructing the display to present a plurality of CB messages received via the CBCHs on the display based upon said priority level.

2. The mobile communications device of claim **1**, wherein the mobile communications device operates in a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a GSM standard for CB messaging.

3. The mobile communications device of claim **1**, wherein the mobile communications device operates in a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a UMTS standard for CB messaging.

4. The mobile communications device of claim **1**, wherein the mobile communications device operates in a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a CDMA standard for CDMA messaging.

5. The mobile communications device of claim **1**, wherein the processor is further for receiving, via the transceiver, an update to the priority scheme, the update modifying at least one of the CBCHs included in at least one of the logic groups and the priority level assigned to at least one of the logic groups.

6. A computer readable memory of a mobile communications device operating in a wireless network, the computer readable memory comprising computer-executable instructions for making a processor operable to:

- assign a priority level to two or more logic groups according to a priority scheme, wherein each of the logic groups includes a plurality of Cell Broadcast Channels (CBCHs); and
- instruct a display to present a plurality of Cell Broadcast (CB) messages received via the CBCHs on the display based upon said priority level.

7. The computer readable memory of claim **6**, wherein the priority scheme is static.

8. The computer readable memory of claim **6**, wherein the priority scheme is dynamic.

9. The computer readable medium of claim **6**, wherein the mobile communications device is operating in a Global Sys-

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tem for Mobile communications (GSM) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a GSM standard for CB messaging.

10. The computer readable medium of claim **6**, wherein the mobile communications device is operating in a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a UMTS standard for CB messaging.

11. The computer readable medium of claim **6**, wherein the mobile communications device is operating in a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a CDMA standard for CDMA messaging.

12. The computer readable medium of claim **6**, wherein the memory further comprises instructions for making the processor operable to receive an update to the priority scheme, the update modifying at least one of the CBCHs included in at least one of the logic groups and the priority level assigned to at least one of the logic groups.

13. A method for providing a priority scheme to a mobile communications device operating in a wireless communications network, the method comprising:

- loading a priority scheme into a memory of the mobile communications device, the priority scheme comprising two or more logic groups, each of which is assigned a priority level and each of which includes a plurality of cell broadcast channels (CBCHs);
- receiving, at the mobile device, at least two cell broadcast messages via CBCHs; and
- displaying the CB messages in an order prescribed by the priority scheme.

14. The method of claim **13**, further comprising receiving, at the mobile device, the priority scheme during an over-the-air (OTA) activation sequence.

15. The method of claim **13**, wherein loading the priority scheme into the memory of the mobile communications device comprises pre-loading the priority scheme into the memory of the mobile communications device.

16. The method of claim **13**, wherein loading the priority scheme into the memory of the mobile communications device comprises loading the priority scheme into a subscriber identity module (SIM).

17. The method of claim **13**, wherein providing the priority scheme to the mobile communications device operating in the wireless communications network comprises providing the priority scheme to the mobile communications device operating in a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a GSM standard for CB messaging.

18. The method of claim **13**, wherein providing the priority scheme to the mobile communications device operating in the wireless communications network comprises providing the priority scheme to the mobile communications device operating in a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) network that supports CB messaging in accordance with a UMTS standard for CB messaging.

19. The method of claim **13**, wherein providing the priority scheme to the mobile communications device operating in the wireless communications network comprises providing the priority scheme to the mobile communications device operating in a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network that supports CB message in accordance with a CDMA standard for CDMA messaging.

20. The method of claim **13** further comprising receiving, at the mobile device, an update to the priority scheme, the update modifying at least one of the CBCHs included in at least one of the logic groups and the priority level assigned to at least one of the logic groups.